

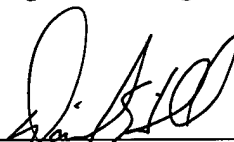
REMARKS

In the October 4, 2001 Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrien U.S. Patent No. 6,207,954 ("Andrien"). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the teachings of Andrien. Specifically, the Examiner states that Andrien teaches an "apparatus comprising first and second capillary sections having an inlet and an outlet, a union having first and second openings." Applicant respectfully disagrees. None of the sections in the specification of Andrien cited by the Examiner discuss or even suggest a capillary having first and second sections joined by a union. Indeed, nothing in Andrien suggests a multiple section capillary joined by a union as claimed in the present application. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention represents a patentable contribution to the art and the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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